


TANFIELD
Urban District Council

MEDICAL OFFICER'S
Annual + Report
For 1906.



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MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1906.



Stanley,

1907.

GENTLEMEN,—

I beg to submit to your Council a brief report of the sanitary condition of the district and the improvements that have taken place, also an account of the sickness and mortality that have occurred during the year 1906.

The chief industry is coal-mining, all the other industries are practically depending upon it for their existence. Although the latter come under the control of your Council through the Factory and Workshops Act, the former is governed by special Acts outside of your jurisdiction. The Factory and Workshops Act provides for the health and comfort of the employees as regards ventilation of the premises, suitable outlets in case of fire, and a sufficiency of out-office accommodation. Those termed factories include all work when mechanical power is employed, and the number in existence at present is ten, consisting of brickworks, gas works, sawmills, electric works, etc. The workshops include only those trades where manual labour is done and they also are ten in number. There are no works using deleterious material and coming under the special clause

“injurious to health” Only retail bakeries exist and all are most satisfactory. The slaughter houses give no offence, the offal is carefully removed and the premises kept clean. The Inspector on his last visit reports “no complaint to make.”

SURVEYOR AND INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENTS.

Forty-seven new houses were built during the year, of this number 12 were provided by Messrs. J. Joicey & Co. for their retired workmen, and the accommodation consisted of two rooms with scullery and pantry, and out-offices of a model kind. The remaining 25, of which 7 are semi-detached, contain four rooms or more having every modern convenience attached to them. The whole of the villages throughout the district are now completely sewered and provision has also been made to treat the sewage outflow either by broad irrigation, intermittent irrigation or bacterial tanks, excepting at one small village, at Causey, and this is under consideration. During the year outfall works were constructed at Tanfield Lea on the bacterial system, they are acting very satisfactorily. The affluent to Tantobie and White-le-Head works is occasionally too much for treatment, surface drains have however been laid which will lessen the quantity.

OLD PROPERTY.—Six houses situated at Tantobie, White-le-Head and Waggon Hill were condemned as unfit for habitation and were pulled down and rebuilt. At Tanfield Lea 11 houses were provided with back doors and self-contained yards and new out-offices. There are still 10 however, which might be improved by additional ventilation. Some property at the village of Hobson has been similarly treated. A few one-roomed dwellings are still in existence at the Lintz and Friarside. Although in choosing the families for tenants, care has been exercised to select them for their paucity of members, yet in such a prosperous district such limited accommodation should not be allowed for obvious reasons. During the year 25 of the large insanity accommodations were demolished and replaced by earth closets. A few of the old type still remain, which might with advantage be swept away. The scavenging and removal of refuse are done by contract, under the supervision of the Inspector and disinfectants are used in the out-offices during the summer months. Suitable sites for the deposit of refuse have been procured.

MILK AND WATER SUPPLY —There are no dairies where the milk is sold over the counter. The cowsheds belong generally to farmers who feed the cattle both outdoor and indoor, the milk is distributed from door to door. The Water Supply is from the Weardale and Consett Water Co.'s reservoir, and is both good and abundant. A large number of notices both verbal and written were served for the removal of petty nuisances. These were all complied with and legal proceedings were never necessary.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

The number of cases of Notifiable Diseases reported during the year give a total of 154, and these consisted of Diphtheria 74, Croup 2, Erysipelas 25, Scarlet Fever 50, and Enteric Fever 3. The number for the previous year was only 96, the increase during the past year being due to Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria. Diphtheria has never been absent during the whole year. It was most prevalent in the quarter ending September and during this quarter the mortality was highest. As regards Membranous Croup, the cases were probably also Diphtheria.

Scarlet Fever was never really epidemic and was fairly evenly scattered over the whole district. Enteric Fever gave a very satisfactory return, only 3 cases occurring and one was an importation, as against 17 during the previous year.

Erysipelas might be eliminated from the infectious diseases so far as its propagation is concerned.

HOSPITAL.

Out of the 129 cases suitable for removal 85 were transferred to the Infectious Hospital ; a very fair percentage.

NON-NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

We were comparatively free from Non-Notifiable Diseases, a few cases of Whooping Cough and Measles appeared, ending in a single fatality from the latter disease.

VITAL STATISTICS.

During the year 1906 there were registered 295 births, giving a birth-rate of 32·4, and the deaths were 124, giving a death-rate of 13·6, estimating the population at the end of June to be 9,100. The birth-rate is about equal to the previous year and the death-rate is 2·2 less. The number of deaths from infectious diseases, including Diarrhœa was 24. Infantile mortality was considerably lower being 43, ten less than the previous year, giving a death-rate per 1000 births of 145·7 against 180·2 in the year 1905. With regard to infantile mortality 8 were due to preventable diseases, 7 to Tubercular diseases, 9 to Premature Birth and Congenital defects, 9 to Atrophy and Marasmus, and 7 to diseases of the air passages. Of the total number 18 would have succumbed before reaching the adult stage, no matter how carefully they might have been treated; 7 more might be classed under this same heading, among those suffering from diseases of the air passages. The mortality might have been lessened by better accommodation. With regard to the dieting of infants deprived of their natural food, leaflets have been distributed through the medium of the Registrars, giving instructions for the preparation of suitable diet.

The following table shews how the various rates of this district compare with those of the county.

	County.	Tanfield.
Birth-rate per 1,000 population ...	35·2	32·4
Death-rate „ „ „ „ „ „ „ „ „	17·5	13·6
Zymotic Death-rate „ „ „ „ „ „ „ „	2·40	2·63
Infantile mortality-rate (per 1,000 births)	157	145·7
Small-pox per 1,000 population ...	nil	nil
Scarlet Fever „ „ „ „ „ „ „ „	0·08	0·44
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup „ „ „ „ „ „ „ „	0·20	0·77
Fever (Enteric and Continued) „ „ „ „ „ „ „ „	0·22	0·22
Measles „ „ „ „ „ „ „ „ „	0·16	0·11
Whooping Cough „ „ „ „ „ „ „ „	0·30	nil.
Diarrhoea „ „ „ „ „ „ „ „ „	1·41	1·09
Enteritis, &c. „ „ „ „ „ „ „ „ „	0·42	0·11
Phthisis „ „ „ „ „ „ „ „ „	1·09	0·33
Other Tubercular diseases „ „ „ „ „ „ „ „	0·74	1·33
Acute Respiratory diseases „ „ „ „ „ „ „ „	2·62	2·09

Attached are the various Government Forms.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

T. BENSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

The Urban District Council,
Tanfield.



Table 1.
TANFIELD URBAN DISTRICT.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1906 and previous Years.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.								TOTAL DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITU- TIONS IN THE DIS- TRICT.			Deaths of Non- residents register- ed in Public Institu- tions in the District		Deaths of residents register- ed in Public Institu- tions beyond the District.		NETT DEATHS AT ALL AGES BE- LONGING TO THE DISTRICT.	
				Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.		Rate per 1000 Births register- ed.	Number	Rate.	Number	Rate.	Number	Rate.						
		Number	Rate.	Number	Rate.	Number	Rate.													
															1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1896	7,300	157	35.2	35	134.4	103	14.1			3	103	14.1								
1897	7,550	286	37.8	53	185.3	135	17.8			2	135	17.8								
1898	7,700	318	41.3	48	151	127	16.4			3	127	16.4								
1899	7,900	319	40.3	44	138	135	17			1	135	17								
1900	8,100	318	39.2	61	191.8	141	17.4			8	141	17.4								
1901	8,300	354	42.6	52	146.8	138	16.6			—	138	16.6								
1902	8,500	319	37.5	46	144.2	149	17.5	1	1	3	148	17.4								
1903	8,700	306	35.1	57	186.25	150	17.25	7	7	2	143	16.4								
1904	8,900	312	35	63	201.2	172	19.3	10	10	4	166	18.6								
1905	9,000	294	32.7	53	180.2	152	16.9	14	10	—	142	15.8								
Averages for years 1896-1905	8,195	308	37.7	51	165.9	140	17.02	8	7	3	138	16.7								
1906	9,100	295	32.4	43	145.7	128	14.07	15	9	5	124	13.6								

Area of District in acres
(exclusive of area
covered by water).

6650

Total population at all ages
Number of inhabited houses
Average number of persons per house

8276
1632
5¹/₈

At Census
of 1901.

Table III.
TANFIELD URBAN DISTRICT.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1906.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.							No. of cases removed to hospital from each locality.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upward	
Small-pox ...								
Cholera ...								
Diphtheria ..	74		12	47	11	4		48
Membranous croup ...	2		1	1				
Erysipelas ...	25		1	1	2	21		
Scarlet fever ...	50	1	9	37	2	1		35
Typhus fever...								
Enteric fever...	3			1		2		2
Relapsing fever								
Continued fever								
Puerperal fever								
Plague ...								
Totals ...	154	1	23	87	15	28		85

Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District—
Tanfield Isolation Hospital.

Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District—
Lanchester Union. County Asylum.

Small-pox Hospital at Maiden Law now used as a Sanatorium.

Table IV.
TANFIELD URBAN DISTRICT.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1906.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Deaths at the subjoined ages of Residents whether occurring in or beyond the District.							Total Deaths whether of Residents or non Residents in Public Institu- tions in the District.
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and up- wards	
Small-pox								
Measles	1		1					
Scarlet fever	4		1	3				4
Whooping-cough								
Diphtheria and mem- branous croup	10		4	5	1			7
Croup	1	1						
Fever { Typhus								
{ Enteric	2		1	1				2
{ Other contin'd								
Epidemic influenza								
Cholera								
Plague... ..								
Diarrhœa	10	7	3					
Enteritis								
Puerperal fever								
Erysipelas								
Other septic diseases...								
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	3					3		
Other tubercular diseases	12	7		2	2	1		
Cancer, malignant disease	1					1		
Bronchitis	13	7	3			1	2	
Pneumonia	5		1			4		
Pleurisy	1					1		
Other diseases of Res- piratory organs	2	1			1			
Alcoholism }								
Cirrhosis of liver }								
Venereal diseases								
Premature birth	5	5						
Diseases and accidents of parturition	2					2		
Heart diseases	7					2	5	
Accidents	9				2	6	1	
Suicides								
All other causes	40	15	6	2	1	9	7	2
All causes	128	43	20	13	7	30	15	15

THOMAS BENSON, *Medical Officer of Health.*

February 26th, 1907.

Table V.

TANFIELD URBAN DISTRICT.

Infantile Mortality during the Year 1906.

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.				Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	3-4 Months.	4-5 Months.	5-6 Months.	6-7 Months.	7-8 Months.	8-9 Months.	9-10 Months.	10-11 Months.	11-12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Yr.
All Causes	{	Certified ...	...	7	1	1	2	11	3	8	2	1	8	1	1	3	2	1	1	42
		Uncertified ...	...						1											1
Common Infectious Diseases.	{	Small-pox ...	..																
		Chicken-pox ...	...																
		Measles ...	...																
		Scarlet Fever ...	...																
		Diphtheria : Croup ...	...											1						1
		Whooping Cough ...	...																
Diarrhoeal Diseases.	{	Diarrhoea, all forms ..	..							1	1		3	1			1			7
		Enteritis, Muco-enteritis, Gastro-enteritis									1									1
		Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh																		
Wasting Diseases.	{	Premature Birth ...	...	5				5												5
		Congenital Defects ...	...	1	1	1	1	4												4
		Injury at Birth ...	...																
		Want of Breast-milk, Starvation																		
Tuberculous Diseases.	{	Atrophy, Debility Marasmus		1			1	2	1	3	1	1	1							9
		Tuberculous Meningitis									1				1		1			3
		Tuberculous Peritonitis									1	1								3
		Tabes Mesenterica																	1	
Other Causes.	{	Other Tuberculous Diseases											1							1
		Erysipelas ..	...																
		Syphilis ...	...																
		Rickets ...	...																
		Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>)																		
		Convulsions ...	...							1				1						2
		Bronchitis ...	...							1	1			1			3	1		7
		Laryngitis ...	...																
		Pneumonia ...	...																
		Suffocation, overlaying...																		
Other Causes	...																			
				7	1	1	2	11	4	8	2	1	8	1	1	3	2	1	1	43

Births in the year { legitimate 285. Deaths in the year of { legitimate infants 37
 { illegitimate 10. { illegitimate infants 6

Population (estimated to middle of 1906) ... 9,100.

Deaths from all Causes at all Ages, 128.

TANFIELD URBAN DISTRICT.

Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces & Homework

1.—INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices	Prosecutions.
Factories 10 (Including Factory Laundries).	4	Nil.	Nil.
Workshops 10 (Including Workshop Laundries).	4	Nil.	Nil.
Workplaces	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Total	8	Nil.	Nil.

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects			Number of Prosecutions.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H. M. Inspector.	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts—				
Sanitary Accommodation—unsuitable or defective	2	2		
Total	2	2		

3.—HOME WORK.

Nil.

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Not yet registered.

5.—OTHER MATTERS.

Nil.

T. BENSON, *Medical Officer of Health.*

February 26th, 1907.